

Message Text

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TAGS: EGEN, ECOSOC
SUBJECT: 1978 ECOSOC: FIRST REGULAR (SPRING) SESSION:
RESTRUCTURING

REF: USUN 1274

1. DISCUSSIONS ON RESTRUCTURING HELD IN I INFORMAL WORKING SESSIONS DURING SPRING SESSION OF ECOSOC MADE LITTLE PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING CONCRETE AGREEMENTS, BUT DID ADD SOME ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATIONS AS TO NATIONAL POSITIONS ON THE VARIOUS QUESTIONS DISCUSSED IN EARLIER INFORMAL SESSION (REFTEL). CRP-1 REMAINED BASIS OF DISCUSSION, ALTHOUGH CHAIRMAN SCHELTEMA UNDERTOOK TO PRODUCE NEW DRAFT FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS AT SUMMER ECOSOC (ADVANCE COPY POUCHED POOLE IO/IEP).

2. NATIONAL POSITIONS DID NOT CHANGE FUNDAMENTALLY FROM THOSE EXPRESSED IN EARLIER ROUND, EXCEPT THAT INDIAN POSITION EMERGED AS MOST CONSERVATIVE, WITH MANY RESERVATIONS AS TO GENERAL PRINCIPLE OF CONVERSION TO SUBJECT-ORIENTED SESSIONS (SOS) AS WELL AS ON SPECIFICS. SOVIETS MAINTAINED ALL THEIR RESERVATIONS ON SPECIFIC
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BODIES, AS DID 77. U.K. AND SWEDEN, ON OTHER HAND, CONTINUE TO HOLD OUT AGAINST RETENTION OF COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, ON WHICH CONSENSUS OTHERWISE CLEAR.

3. THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POSITIONS ON FUTURE STATUS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, KEYED TO CRP-1, MAY BE NOTED:

- EXPERT BODIES

- 9I - CRIME PREVENTION. FRG PROPOSED DROPPING "EXCLUSIVE" LIMITATION ON FUNCTION, SUPPORTED BY ITALY
- 9III - ACAST - FRG "STRONG RESERVE"
- 9IV - US NOTES TAX TREATY GROUP SHOULD LIKEWISE CONTINUE BEYOND 1979 ON AD HOC BASIS

- STANDING COMMITTEES

- NATURAL RESOURCES - SOVIET BLOC, 77 AND TURKEY SUPPORT RETENTION. US, UK, FRANCE AGREE FOR SOS, BUT ON FLEXIBLE BASIS PROVIDING FOR EXERT GROUP AND COUNCIL SESSIONS ON SPECIFIC SUBJECTS.

- REVIEW AND APPRAISAL. (I.E. RETAIN 1979 SESSION) 77 ASKED REMOVAL FROM LIST WHILE US AND UK PROPOSED LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD IMPLY IMMEDIATE DISCONTINUATION.

- SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - SOVIET BLOC OPPOSES SOS, WHILE FRG EXPRESSED "STRONG RESERVATIONS". US, 77 AND OTHER WEO'S EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO INCLUDE IN SOS APPROACH.

- TRANSNATIONALS. SOVIET BLOC AND 77 URGE RETENTION. FRG AND FRANCE INSIST ON RETENTION OF FULL MANDATE AND PROCEDURES IF TRANSFERRED TO SOS.
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- NGO'S. THERE APPEARED TO BE AGREEMENT ON RETENTION, WITH LIMITED EXPANSION. SESSIONAL APPROACH WAS REJECTED.

- FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS

- POPULATION. 77 DOWNPLAYED, CALLED FOR INFREQUENT SOS. SECRETARIAT CALLED FOR SOS CONCENTRATING ON SPECIFIC AREAS.

- SOCIAL. 77 SUPPORTED SOS, BUT SUGGESTED MOST OF FUNCTIONS WOULD BE TAKEN OVER BY NEW HUMAN SETTLEMENTS COMMISSION. UK SUGGESTED FIRST SOS SHOULD EXAMINE ROLE.

4. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF NATURE OF SUBJECT-ORIENTED SESSIONS (SOS) AND THEIR EFFECT ON CURRENT PATTERN OF REGULAR SESSIONS. ECOSOC SECRETARY CORDOVEZ STRESSED THE NEED FOR GREATER SELECTIVITY AND FLEXIBILITY IN DETERMINING AGENDAS OF SOS, WHILE FRG AND FRANCE (PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSNATIONALS) STRESSED RETAINING EXISTING TERMS OF REFERENCE. 77 CONCEDED THAT TERM OF REFERENCE OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES WOULD BE TRANSFERRED INTACT TO PARENT BODY (BUT LEFT OPEN POSSIBILITY OF LATERREVISION). SWEDES PROPOSED A

COMBINATION OF SHORT "REPLACEMENT" SOS AND BROADER, LONGER
BUT LESS FREQUENT SESSIONS ON SETS OF RELATED SUBJECTS.
THEY AND JAMAICANS NOTED THAT REGULAR SESSIONS MIGHT BE
MORE COORDINATIVE, AND REDUCED IN NUMBERS. THE U.S.
"SAFELY SET" CONCEPT RECEIVED SOME SUPPORT FROM THE
NETHERLANDS AND FRANCE, WITH THE LATTER PROPOSING
ALTERNATIVE OF DECIDING FATE OF EACH SUBORDINATE BODY
ON CONCLUSION OF RELATED SOS.

NOTE: ON PARA 3, PAGE 2, ITEM ON: REVIEW AND APPRAISAL
SHOULD READ:

- REVIEW AND APPRAISAL. 77 ASKED REMOVAL FROM LIST
(I.E. RETAIN 1979 SESSION) WHILE US AND UK PROPOSED
LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD IMPLY IMMEDIATE DISCONTINUATION.
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